

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all Members that it is not in order in debate to refer to any occupant in the gallery.

AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER TO
APPOINT MEMBERS TO REPRESENT
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
AT CEREMONIES FOR OBSERVANCE OF
GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it shall be in order for the Speaker to appoint two Members of the House, one upon the recommendation of the minority leader, to represent the House of Representatives at appropriate ceremonies for the observance of George Washington's birthday to be held on Monday, February 23, 1998.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR
WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1998

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday, February 25, 1998.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER, MAJORITY
LEADER AND THE MINORITY LEADER
TO ACCEPT RESIGNATIONS AND MAKE
APPOINTMENTS AUTHORIZED BY
LAW OR THE HOUSE, NOTWITH-
STANDING ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, notwithstanding any adjournment of the House until Tuesday, February 24, 1998, the Speaker, majority leader and minority leader be authorized to accept resignations and to make appointments authorized by law or by the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE 189TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
BIRTH OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to rise in honor of our country's greatest president whose birthday we celebrate today.

We Republicans honor Lincoln as a founder of our great political party and the first Republican president. We are right to this. But this is not the source of Lincoln's greatness.

Lincoln used the Republican party and the presidency as vehicles to achieve three magnificent things. He preserved this great union of ours. He ended slavery on this continent. He extended to the American entrepreneurial spirit to millions of people of all walks of life. We have a word for that on a subcommittee I chair. We call it "empowerment."

Without a strong union, the United States would not have become the economic power it is today. Because of Lincoln's work, this nation produced the highest standard of living of any in the history of the world. And because the United States remained one nation, it was able to assemble the moral military might that liberated millions this century from three of the worst tyrannies in all of history: nazi Germany, imperial Japan, and the Stalinist "evil empire."

Throughout the world, the name "Lincoln" connotes compassion—and for good reason. Slavery sickened him. "If slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong" he said. He worked to restrict its expansion before the civil war; used that military emergency to end it; and forced through the thirteenth amendment to the constitution to prevent its re-instatement.

As Commander in Chief, he made merciful use of his pardoning powers. He was particularly sympathetic to young offenders. "Must I shoot a simple-minded soldier boy, who deserts, while I must not touch a hair of a wily agitator who induces him to desert?" he said, " * * * to silence the agitator and save the boy is not only constitutional, but withal a great mercy."

There was one group of lawbreaker, however, to whom he showed no mercy, slave traders. In one celebrated instance, he refused to commute to life in prison the sentence of person who had committed that hideous crime. Before Lincoln's presidency, that law had gone enforced. After it, there was no need to have it at all.

It was also during Lincoln's administration that homestead legislation became federal policy and land grants to states for the establishment of colleges became law. These measures, along with the example of Lincoln's life story, came to characterize the American entrepreneurial spirit.

As the "empowerment subcommittee" continues to explore ways to assist individuals and communities achieve their full potential, we will carry Lincoln's spirit with us. Lincoln was the personification of "empowerment" in America. Here is how he described it:

"The prudent penniless beginner in the world labors for wages for a while, saves a surplus with which to buy tools or land for himself, then labors on his own account for another while, and at length hires another new beginner to help him."

I urge all Americans to pause on this day and all through the year to reflect upon the words and deeds of this extraordinary human being. They do this by visiting the Lincoln Memorial and Ford's Theater, here in Washington, and the Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The March issue of Civil War Times

contains an article about that museum's fascinating exhibits. It is my pleasure to submit it for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the Civil War Times, March 1998]

A NEW LINCOLN MEMORIAL

(By Al Sandner)

In Fort Wayne, Indiana, one man's admiration gave birth to the largest private collection of Lincoln-related materials in the world. The two-year-old museum that houses the collection combines modern technology with 19th-century artifacts to create a hands-on, in-depth examination of "Lincoln and the American Experiment."

For generations the people of Fort Wayne, Indiana, have cherished the legend that Abraham Lincoln stopped here on the fateful trip that catapulted him into the race for the presidency. They've cherished it and hoped it was true, but couldn't be sure.

Legend had it that Lincoln changed trains here on his way to deliver a speech at the Cooper Institute in New York, where his son, Robert, was a student. The speech made a deep impression on the audience and caught the attention of Northeastern power brokers, vaulting him into the elite company of men regarded as potential presidential candidates. On his journey eastward, he was a regionally known lawyer, soldier, surveyor, and politician. On the return trip his name was being whispered in the halls of power as a contender for the highest office in the land. The Fort Wayne train switch—if it really happened—was related closely enough to a pivotal moment in American history to make any city proud.

Recent research has laid the legend to rest and replaced it with historical fact. "We have determined that on February 23, 1860, Abraham Lincoln did change trains in Fort Wayne while on his way to the Cooper Institute speech," said Gerald Prokopowicz, Lincoln scholar and director of programs for the Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne.

In the years since 1860, working on faith and dedication alone, one local businessman and Lincoln admirer created in this mid-sized northeastern Indiana town (closer to Knute Rockne country than to what is usually thought of as the land of Lincoln) what was to become the largest private collection of Lincoln materials in the world, housed in a \$6 million, 30,000-square-foot museum that is both a tribute to Lincoln and an interactive multimedia essay on his impact on America as we know it.

Fort Wayne, a 203-year-old city also known as the final resting place of Johnny Appleseed, doesn't really need an excuse for housing the Lincoln Museum. The institution stands on its own merits, combining relics and reconstructions, videos and period documents, the deadly serious (for example, a slave's manacle) and the whimsical (the tail end of a 1970s Lincoln Versailles with its trademark wheel on the trunk lid and a collection of bands from "Lincoln" brand cigars).

The museum's 11 exhibit galleries ingeniously incorporate hundreds of Lincoln-era artifacts and art works—including the inkwell Lincoln used in signing the Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln family photos and handwritten documents, the president's legal wallet, and his pocket knife. Its research library, with 18,000 volumes and 5,000 photographs, draws Lincoln scholars from across the country.

Traveling exhibits have included one of the few surviving signed copies of the Emancipation Proclamation (the Leland-Boker Edition, which was sold during the Civil War to benefit war relief work) and one of 13 copies of the resolution for the 13th Amendment, which banned slavery. More recently, an exhibit called "White House Style" displayed 9